



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: August 17, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VII: Consideration of resolution authorizing an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a Proposition 50 grant to acquire approximately 2.66 acres in Alamos Canyon (portions of APNs 500-0-291-115 and 579-0-050-175), Simi Valley.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a Proposition 50 grant in the amount of \$250,000 to acquire approximately 2.66 acres in Alamos Canyon (portions of APNs 500-0-291-115 and 579-0-050-175), Simi Valley.

Legislative Authority: Joint Exercise of Powers Action (Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.*)

Background: The Simi Hills provide the only stepping stone for wildlife to replenish populations in the approximately 200 square mile Santa Monica Mountains ecosystem and link to the Santa Susana Mountains ecosystem. To continue this function effectively, the Simi Hills must ultimately contain enough protected habitat to maintain small populations of wildlife. The watercourses in the Simi Hills must also be protected from pollution and further encroachment by development. The proposed acquisition will contribute to both goals.

The subject property is located between the 118 Freeway and West Los Angeles Avenue, on the north side of the City of Simi Valley, and is kitty-corner to Oak Park. The property owner, Donley Trust, is agreeable to the concept of sub-dividing the property into two parts to provide both a habitat linkage and adequate space for development. The MRCA would take title to the western-most portion that includes Alamos Canyon Creek. An appraisal has been ordered based on this split of the property.

The MRCA has existing in-lieu mitigation funding to restore the subject 2.66 acres.

MRCA staff have discussed with the owner the possibility of accepting clean fill from his development, and using a portion of the future MRCA property to infiltrate/filter and reduce the velocity of stormwater runoff from the proposed project. That effort may include hard concrete infrastructure.

The estimated full cost of acquisition is \$350,000; the final amount will be determined after the appraisal is completed. MRCA would use in lieu mitigation fees for the Calleguas Creek watershed for costs exceeding the requested grant amount of \$250,000. Escrow could close as early as early November 2006 barring unforeseen complications.